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LETTER DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, on 19 February 1999, regarding the settlement of the Kosovo problem (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations

99-04874 (E) 230299

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Annex

Statement issued by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine on 19 February 1999

Consistently adhering to the principles of peaceful settlement of international problems, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine strongly condemns the intention to solve the problem of Kosovo and Metohija by means of force, including the bombardment of the whole of Yugoslavia. Blackmailing the Yugoslav side with the deployment of troops in Kosovo, that is, encroaching upon the territorial integrity of a sovereign State, unleashes destructive forces which may actually provoke an armed conflict in the centre of Europe.

With this in mind, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine appeals to the Security Council of the United Nations and to the Parliaments and Governments of the whole world to do their utmost to avert armed conflict, which is fraught with the danger of turning into a world war.

The Verkhovna Rada requests the President and the Government of Ukraine to bring this position to the notice of all the European and world institutions, spearheaded by the United Nations, and to contribute personally to the solely peaceful settlement of the Kosovo problem.

We also call upon both conflicting parties to begin a peaceful dialogue for the sake of preserving quiet in the Balkans and in all of Europe.